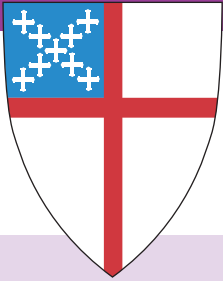


# The Vineyard



Christ Episcopal Church - Valdosta, Georgia

November 2011



## Mark Your Calendar

### November 1

All Saints' Day 6 p.m. service &  
DOK dedication of new  
members, followed by roast beef  
& Yorkshire pudding dinner

### November 2

All Souls' Day 6 p.m. service

### November 5

Paws for a Cause  
St. Francis Road Race  
7 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. 5K  
Lowndes High School

### November 6

Parish Picnic at Grassy Pond  
3 p.m. until

### November 6 - 13

Vestry Elections  
Watch the website  
and Sunday Bulletin  
for nominees

### November 13

Youth Sunday and  
UTO Ingathering

### November 20

EYCS Annual offering

### November 24

Thanksgiving Day  
service and feast, 11 a.m.

### November 25

Office closed

### November 27

Advent 1  
Wreath-making during the  
Sunday School hour

[www.christchurchvaldosta.org](http://www.christchurchvaldosta.org)

## The initial "concrete" steps . . .



The initial "concrete" steps should soon be underway on the construction of our new education building. The Finance committee is in the process of establishing a line of credit with First State Bank to supplement our own funds. The building contract has been awarded to Quillian Powell Construction, a local Valdosta firm. Powell has agreed to a guaranteed maximum contract, and has been bonded to protect the church's interest. Our building plans are currently undergoing a fire safety review by the City of Valdosta, but we have applied for a foundation permit to begin construction prior to that final approval, possibly by November 1.

Once work is underway, completion should be in 240 days. A construction fence will take up about a third of our paved parking lot; information about alternate parking locations will be posted on the church website and printed in the Sunday bulletins as soon as it is available. The website will also have an online photo album with images of the construction in progress.

## DDG Meets at Christ Episcopal Church

The Rt. Rev. Scott A. Benhase, The Rev. Tar Drazdowski and Christ Episcopal Church welcomed the Dominican Development Group to Valdosta, October 22-25. Dominican Bishop Julio Holguín and 5 other representatives of the companion dioceses spoke at area churches on Sunday, October 23, talking  
*continued on page 6*



Deacon Bob Snow, missionary in the Dominican Republic, preached at Christ Episcopal Church.

# The Vineyard

## The Vineyard On the Web

The Vineyard is posted to the Christ Church Web site in color at [www.christchurchvaldosta.org](http://www.christchurchvaldosta.org). Look in the "Publications" area to see this newsletter.

## The Vineyard Deadline

The newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication. Send information to [juliacaraiail@bellsouth.net](mailto:juliacaraiail@bellsouth.net).

## Christ Episcopal Church

The Rt. Rev. Scott A. Benhase,  
Bishop of Georgia  
The Rev. Peter Ingeman, Rector  
The Rev. Tar Drazdowski, Assistant Rector  
The Rev. Jim Elliott, Assisting Priest  
The Rev. Walter Hobgood, Priest Associate  
The Rev. Stephen Norris, Priest Associate  
The Rev. Deacon Stella Clark  
The Rev. Deacon Patricia Marks  
The Rev. Deacon Nancy Sartin  
Molly Stevenson, Parish Administrator  
Amy Creasy, Bookkeeper  
Sue Ellen Rumstay, Organist  
Kathy Armstrong, St. Gregory Choir Dir.  
Maggie Roberts, St. Francis Choir Leader  
Julia and Julius Ariail, Newsletter Editors

## Vestry

Julia Ariail	Philip Gunter
Clinton Beeland	John Hiers
Tammy Borders	Aaron Parten
Stefani Carroll	Steve Roberts
Dave Clark	Mike Tanner
Jerry DeMott	Joe Tomberlin
Susan Elliott	Lucy Tomberlin
Sparky Greneker	

## Phone Numbers

Church Office	242-5115
The Rev. Ingeman	245-0799
The Rev. Drazdowski	249-0895
The Rev. Elliott	242-3333
The Rev. Hobgood	630-6444
The Rev. Norris	548-5700
The Rev. Dcn. Clark	559-6159
The Rev. Dcn. Marks	244-5159
The Rev. Dcn. Sartin	834-0147
Molly Stevenson	292-8215

## Vestry Report from September 20, 2011

- Received report from Clinton Beeland and the Facilities Committee - "Christ Church Education Building" that detailed the changes, costs, other information and suggested direction. Clinton Beeland stated that the Facilities Committee working with the architects had:

- Reduced the size of the Education Building by approximately 2,000 sq. ft.
- Removed parking from the south of the property to preserve trees and eliminate the need for a detention pond in the backyard of the Rectory.
- Looped Louttit Hall drive to connect to the current parking lot.
- Changed roof lines.
- Advised future increase in parking should be handled by removing the Tomberlin House and paving that area.
- Discussed the options for the building based on the money in hand and expected pledges.
- Approved unanimously a Dave Clark/Joe Tomberlin motion to begin construction with a long-term debt of no more than \$554,000.
- Approved unanimously a Jerry DeMott/John Hiers motion to accept the "Resolution of the Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church, Valdosta, Georgia," a legal document approving the loan from First State Bank, which offered the best interest rate and amended the document with the correct construction loan figures.
- Approved unanimously a Dave Clark/Julia Ariail motion to add



Mike Tanner,  
Junior Warden

Dave Clark,  
Senior Warden

\$20,000 to the 2012 diocesan assessment of \$48,916. The additional money is designated for college ministry, youth programs, and Honey Creek.

- Received report on the adjustment of hours for the PMO and lunch bunch to comply with daycare regulations. Letters will be sent to parents of participating children.
- Reported that \$480 was raised by Men in Blue for the FragileX Foundation.
- Reported the resignation of Beth Baker as youth minister and the temporary division of her duties until a new youth minister is hired.
- Announced that Carolyn Eager will take over as treasurer for the Vestry in January 2012.
- Reported on the Stitchers of Love projects and activities - Special Olympics Scarf Project, upcoming project with Second Harvest Food Bank, a knitters' retreat at Honey Creek and an article in *From the Field*, the e-newsletter of the diocese.
- Announced Hobgood Ordination schedule, Bishop's Visitation and meeting with the Vestry, combined services, ground breaking and dinner on the ground with meat provided by the Men in Blue and side dishes provided by parishioners.



The camera symbol indicates that an album of photos on this subject is available online at <http://picasaweb.google.com/christchurchvaldosta>.

# From the Rector



## “I SING A SONG OF THE SAINTS OF GOD”

That is, of course, the first line of one of the really beloved hymns we sing; beloved because it tells us that the saints of God are “just folks” like you and me. Sometimes on Sunday morning I look out over the congregation and think of the many people that have made Christ Church what it is today, a loving parish family centered on the worship of Christ and committed to His service. It really seems that I can see those of our family who are no longer visible with us still in the places they occupied over the years. Those places often remain unfilled as though they are still seated there. Of course they are. They are our communion of saints, and they are many. Looking back over the more than twenty years that I have known Christ Church, so many names come to mind; men and women, boys and girls whose lives have profoundly influenced those around them, models of what it means to be a follower of Christ. They have a place in an unbroken line of servants of Christ stretching back to that first few who heard His call. They are still here, of course; smiling upon us from their apparently empty places, rejoicing in each successive generation at prayer and worship. We are blessed by their presence.

November begins with a day set aside as All Saints Day; in truth every day is a day to celebrate our saints.

Peter+



Clinton Anthony

### Canterbury Club

We are pleased to announce that Clinton Anthony has joined us as a college intern to help manage the hours Louttit Hall is open for college ministry. Clinton has been a member of the Canterbury Club for the last three semesters. He is currently a student at Georgia Military College. Clinton is enjoying his time at Louttit Hall and encourages all our college and Wiregrass Tech students to come by for a visit. We are grateful to the Diocese of Georgia for providing the funding for Clinton's position.



The Rev. Tar  
Drazdowski

### Youth Activities

Youth Activities are now being led by Stefani Carroll and Tammy Borders.

### Dominican Development Group

Christ Church recently hosted the bi-annual meeting for the Dominican Development Group. The DDG is most appreciative for the southern hospitality shown to them while they were in Valdosta for their meeting Oct 22-25. Bishop Holguín (DR) preached at St. Anne's, Tifton; Bishop Skilton (retired Bishop SC) preached at St. John's and St. Margaret's, Moultrie; David Morrow (Midland, TX) spoke at St. Patrick's, Albany; Bill Kunkle (Tampa, FL) spoke at All Saints', Thomasville; The Rev. Richard Lindsey (Hilton Head, SC) spoke at Grace Church, Waycross; and Deacon Bob Snow (Missionary to the Dominican Republic), spoke at Christ Church, Valdosta.

The main work of the Dominican Development Group is to help raise funds for infrastructure for new churches and schools in the Dominican Republic and monies to build an endowment to support the work of the Dominican Episcopal Church.

Special thanks to Julia Ariail who served at the coordinator of this event; Julius Ariail who photographed the event; Jim Drazdowski, Clinton Beeland, Julius Ariail, and Fred Richter who served as chauffeurs for our speakers; David Somerville for preparing the worship booklets; and to the wonderful people of Christ Church for their gracious generosity and hospitality.

Tar+





## Diocese of Georgia Clergy Retreat

by The Rev. Tar Drazdowski

The semi-annual clergy retreat was held at Honey Creek, October 2-5. Clergy retreats are designed by our diocesan staff as a time for educational opportunity, renewal, growth, and fellowship for the clergy of the diocese. Our program focused on preaching and trends in congregational development. Sewanee professor Dr. Bill Brosend presented a series of talks centered around best preaching practices. Tony Jones gave a look into the emergent church from the prospective of Solomon's Porch, a church community which has been worshipping together for the last eleven years. The highlight of our worship experience was the The Great Vigil of Easter. For many clergy this was an opportunity to experience the Vigil from a worshipping perspective instead of being the celebrant. We started with a large bonfire and then processed to the chapel. For many of us it was a time of renewal.



### Shawl Blessed for Kathy Armstrong

A blue and gray prayer shawl was blessed on the altar at Christ Episcopal Church after the Wednesday night service on September 28. The shawl was hand knit by The Rev. Deacon Patricia Marks and presented to Kathy as a surprise. In addition to being the choir director of the St. Gregory choir, Kathy has played the piano at the Wednesday night service for many years. Several parishioners remained after the service for the blessing. Many knitters in the group enjoyed examining the intricate handwork of the shawl. Creating prayer shawls is a ministry of the Stitchers of Love, led by Deacon Marks.

*Dear Christ Church Family,*

*Thank you so much for your contributions of time and money for the luncheon following Erik Johnson's interment. Amy and Erik's family greatly appreciated your generosity.*

*Our church family always provides love and support when needed. I collected more money than I spent and will give the balance to the education fund that has been established for Amy's and Erik's children, Maren and Jonas. Contributions may be made to Christ Church, Johnson Children Education Fund. The fund will be administered by Southwest Georgia Bank.*

*I am so thankful to be a member of our church, especially at a time like this.*

*Love in Christ, Ann Burnette*

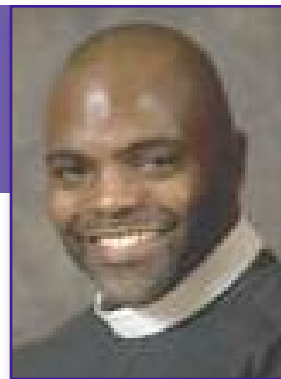
### Aaron Parten Celebrates 76th Birthday

It seemed very appropriate that Aaron Parten celebrate his birthday with the people he feeds every Wednesday night. He and his wife Josie and their family members prepare the delicious Wednesday night suppers that feed the worshipers after the 6 p.m. service. He shared his birthday cake with everyone present...and then packed up his cooking equipment to be ready for another Wednesday night supper.



## Reginald Payne-Wiens

*in his own words*



### **Favorite Memory of Christ Church**

There are so many favorites! When my father died, I had been away from Valdosta for five years. I was very moved by how Christ Church rallied around me. The church provided a luncheon after the funeral. Several members welcomed and consoled me and my family, whom they didn't even know. Christ Church is such a warm and loving church.

### **Favorite Memory of Honey Creek**

My own Happening #24 is my favorite memory of Honey Creek. My friend Jay Connell bet me \$50 I would like Happening more than summer camp, which up until that time had been my best experience at Honey Creek. He did this because money was scarce and precious, and he knew I was going to need an incentive to invest in the experience. He was right, of course. I'm not sure money ever changed hands, but I have been a big fan of the movement ever since. I served on the Happening national board of directors for 3 years between 2000 and 2004.

### **Favorite Memory of a Priest at Christ Church**

I was studying at Valdosta State, parking in the Christ Church parking lot and determined to be an architect after high school. Almost every day I stopped in the office to talk to Pam Guice and Fr. Henry Louttit. One day after a discussion about my plans, Fr. Louttit said, "I think you are called to be a priest." That revelation changed my life. Burdens of indecision and confusion fell away. I knew which way to go. He made a difference in my life.

### **What's in the water in Valdosta that makes us special?**

The care and loving concern of the Christ Church Senior EYC brought me to a clear understanding of religion. Pam Guice, Dan Schert and later Sonya Sullivan (Clifton) encouraged us to ask questions. Nothing was off limits for discussion. They made us theological thinkers. That experience combined with the ones at



Honey Creek in the summers at camp, at Happening and Happening reunions shaped us all. It is not in the water; it is in the people who care about the youth.

Julia Connell Ariail, her son and daughter Jay and



Ashley, Eric Conrad and often others travelled around the Diocese of Georgia when I was a senior in High School visiting different churches where our friends from

Honey Creek worshipped. We felt God in all the places we went. Seeing all the different ways people held Episcopal services that summer gave me inspiration for creativity in worship when I became a priest. I have held services on beaches, in a cave, with a clown and with hip hop music.

### **Education**

Born in Miami, Florida into a military family, I moved to Spain and settled in Valdosta in the 4th grade. I graduated from Valdosta High School, earned a BFA degree from Valdosta State and a Master of Divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary.

### **If you were not a priest, what would you have done?**

I would have continued my dream of becoming an architect graduating from Georgia Tech or Clemson.

### **Do you still use that other interest?**

I have definitely used my art training in every church in which I have served from Washington, D.C. to New Jersey to southern California, to Miami and now Texas. I also use some of the architecture knowledge in planning buildings for churches where I have served. I taught art in California and of course, my training as a trumpet player in the stands at Valdosta High School's Cleveland Field got me the job of football coach at an Episcopal high school in California! The team won four state championships while I coached. Maybe there is something in the water in Valdosta!



The Rev. Reggie Payne-Wiens is currently the rector of St. James Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas. He is married to Elena and they have two daughters, Maya and Talia. This is the third in a continuing series of interviews of priests who grew up at Christ Church Valdosta. Each responded to a series of questions which are the highlighted headlines.





## DDG continued from page 1

about ways to be involved in the Episcopal Church in the DR.

Sixteen members of the group and two guests met in Louttit Hall, worshiped and ate together. Our church hosted a reception in their honor on Sunday evening, and more than 25 members of former DR Mission Teams and supporters from Christ Church joined the group for dinner at SurEste Cantina on Monday evening.

Bishop Benhase said, "We need to follow the example of Bishop Holguín, who is leading the way in incorporating all people in the Church by finding new ways to serve local communities."



Sunday, November 13, is the appointed day for our second UTO Ingathering collection for 2011. Many thanks to our youth for doing a second collection for this worthy cause. Twice a year you are asked to bring the amount of your daily thanksgiving in the form of coins and dollars collected in your blue boxes since our last ingathering in May.

This money is sent to our diocesan UTO coordinator and is then combined with the offerings of hundred of thousands of Episcopalians to become a world-wide effort to meet compelling human needs and to expand the mission and ministry of the church for people throughout the world. Please turn in your Blue Boxes on November 13th or use the UTO envelopes placed in the pew card holders. Thank you for your generous giving in the spring and for your continued support.

-- Helen Tucker, UTO Chairman

# The Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism

by Molly Stevenson

The Standing Commission on Mission and Evangelism met the 2nd weekend of October at the Gray Center in Canton, Mississippi (Episcopal Camp & Conference Center of the Diocese of Mississippi). Our work there was the culmination of the work begun at our first meeting in Chicago, IL in November 2009; our mid term meeting, held in the Dominican Republic in April 2010; and several other web/telephone conferences. When in Chicago, we established legislative priorities and working groups based on the mandate set forth in the Canons of the Episcopal Church – (CANON I.1.2(n) (4))

The 3 legislative priorities/ working groups were:

1. Culturally Appropriate Evangelism: Identify and facilitate the development of culturally appropriate strategies to equip every member to be an evangelist (especially given racial, generational, linguistic, socio-economic, gendered and other cultural realities on the ground);

2. Culturally Appropriate Mission: Identify and facilitate development of culturally appropriate strategies and models for mission, including liturgy and music, theological education, justice engagement and lay leadership development that are geared to meet the racial, generational, linguistic, socio-economic, gendered and other cultural realities on the ground;

3. Re-Imagining General Convention for Mission: Craft a strategy that would help the church's leaders to re-imagine General Convention to balance legislative deliberation with a focus on renewal of the church, especially providing training and inspiration for mission and evangelism, engaging in mission in the host city, and drawing together wider networks of Episcopalians for learning and action.

Bishop Duncan Gray and I comprise the sub-committee that has worked on Re-Imagining General Convention for Mission. In addition to putting together a resolution to be submitted by the Standing Commission which will be considered at General Convention 77 in Indianapolis next summer, we are writing a report of our work for the "Blue Book." (The "Blue Book" is the official document that is sent to each

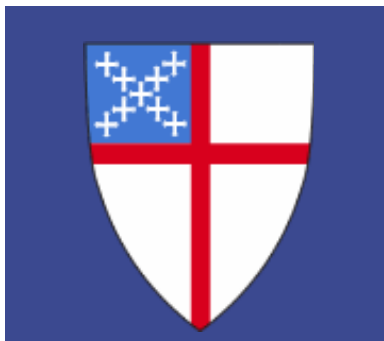
Deputy of General Convention that includes reports from each committee and commission as well as resolutions sponsored by those groups to be considered at General Convention.) As part of the report, we will include a video clip of different people expressing their ideas of how a "re-imagined General Convention" might look when there is a balance between legislative deliberations and a focus on renewal of the church.

At the 76th General Convention, Public Narrative was introduced in response to Resolution 2006-D043, authored by House of Deputies President Bonnie Anderson and used as a way to tell our stories, encouraging us to think and act missionally. Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori, in one of her sermons said, "the heartbeat of the church is mission, mission, mission." Resolution A071 called for identifying and participating in Evangelistic Opportunities at General Convention 77. These have served as inspiration for our work.

By design, General Convention is the largest gathering of the people of the Episcopal Church. This is an extraordinary opportunity that can be used to empower and equip the church and its leaders for mission and evangelism in God's world by creating a balance between legislative deliberation and a focus on renewal of the church. This can be accomplished by providing training and inspiration for mission and evangelism through intentional leadership training, sharing of "best practices," storytelling, networking and engaging in mission in the host city and being the hands and feet of Jesus Christ as a community in action.

Our report is due December 2, but our work doesn't end there. Bishop Gray and I will participate in a meeting in Memphis TN on December 3 at which The Rev. Dwight Zscheile will discuss the historical, missional and cultural context for structural reform in the church to accomplish mission and evangelism in the 21st century.

Although our time spent together was intense and productive, we did manage to have some fun. On the evening before we all departed, following a spirit-filled celebration of the Holy Eucharist on the dock overlooking the lake, we all went to the Mississippi State Fair. A good time was had by all!





# SPECIAL DAYS

## NOVEMBER

### BIRTHDAYS

1 Diane Corker	15 Helen Bennett
Brandon Jackson	18 Jeanette Bajalia
2 Robbie Beeland	Jon Burch
Nancy Lutsko	Aldine Carter
4 Robin Guice	Marty Diamond
5 Jennifer Carter	Emory Warrick, Jr.
Marge Fitzsimons	19 Jim Elliott
Matthew Wilkin	Lauren Sandbach
6 Stefani Carroll	20 Lori Campbell
Georgianna Manning	22 Claire Hanson
7 Brad Burnette	23 Danny Clark
Diane McPipkin	Dan Holcomb
8 Melissa Carter	24 Elizabeth Wisenbaker
David Kirk	26 Valerie Page
Karla Lauckhardt	27 Pat Armstrong
10 Karen Rainey	Shannon Flemer
11 John Nall	28 John Roberts
12 Lindsey Wisenbaker	29 Phyllis Holland
14 Duane Carter	

### BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

1 Nicholas Balanis	12 Charles Adams
Cecilia Carroll	Helen Bennett
Stefani Carroll	Dennis Savoie
Molly Stevenson	14 Tamara Dennis
David Holland	15 Liz Williams
Marie Moser	Walter Williams
Robert Porter	16 Christopher Sandbach
2 Erin Carter	17 Ellie Copeland
Marty Tucker	Andrew Diamond
3 Brett Nelson	Emily White
Alexandra Peebles	20 Chase Adams
4 Michael Black	Jake Adams
Rachel Greneker	Regan Adams
Patricia Marks	21 Grace Diamond
Harrison Tillman, Jr.	22 Gil Gjertsen
8 Sophia Bajalia	McKey Nunn
Craig Lambert	26 Nancy Lutsko
Kyle Stevenson	27 Tom Carroll
Kari Wilkin	28 Chapell Wolfson
	Molly Wolfson
	Wilby Wolfson

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

16 Richard & Barbara Rigby
17 Hugh & Joan Bailey
24 Charles & Carmen Boatwright
Steve & Maggie Roberts
26 Jon & Linda Burch
27 Dan Coleman & Carolyn Eager
Paul & Molly Stevenson
30 Dennis & Patricia Marks

If your special day is not included in our calendar, please call the church office at 242-5115 to let us know.

### Christ Church Ongoing Projects

**Adopt a Haven Family** - The Haven has a special need for new or like-new clothing and kitchen supplies (appliances, dishes, etc.) for mothers and children moving out of the shelter. Contact Patricia Marks (244-5159); <[spmarks@bellsouth.net](mailto:spmarks@bellsouth.net)>.

**Kneelers Project** - Julia Ariail chairs this project to create 10 additional kneelers for our altar rail. (559-7329); <[juliacarail@bellsouth.net](mailto:juliacarail@bellsouth.net)>.

**Partnership for Health Clinic Project** - Diane Halim chairs this project for donations for specific items to patients and families. <[dhollim@valdosta.edu](mailto:dhollim@valdosta.edu)>.

**Pop Tabs** - Collect pop tabs to benefit the Atlanta Ronald McDonald Houses. Please add them to the container on the round table in the Parish Hall. Deacon Stella Clark chairs this project. <[stellamclark@att.net](mailto:stellamclark@att.net)>.

**Toiletries Project** - Gail Hobgood chairs the project to collect unused hotel toiletries for families at LAMP. Summer is coming. Bring in your travel toiletries. <[WPHOBG@aol.com](mailto:WPHOBG@aol.com)>.



Treats for Troops is a program based in Land o' Lakes, FL, that ships about 6 tons of care packages every week to members of our military services in remote combat areas without access to regular PX facilities. Two new members of Christ Church, Nola and Bob Johnson, have volunteered to coordinate the collection of supplies from our parish to be sent overseas through this program. Five items were chosen for this month's shipment: baby wipes, Visine, AA batteries, toothpaste, and wrapped Halloween candy in a gallon zip-lock bag.

Please inclose a \$1 bill to help pay for postage. Donations should be brought to the collection box in the parish hall by November 15th.

For additional information, contact Nola and Bob at 229-242-6000, email <[johnson21@bellsouth.net](mailto:johnson21@bellsouth.net)>, or the Treats for Troops website at <<http://www.treatsfortroops.info>>.





## The Church Bookshelf

a review by The Rev. Deacon Patricia Marks

*Mary Slessor: The Barefoot Missionary*

By Elizabeth Robertson  
NMS Publishing, 2001



This brief biography of a tiny, red-headed missionary from the slums of Dundee only skims the surface of this remarkable woman's life. Slessor (1848-1915), who attended a mill school, worked as a weaver from the age of eleven. In her late twenties, inspired by David Livingstone's trek through Africa, she began a forty-year sojourn in Nigeria, where her simple lifestyle and feisty support of women and orphans earned her the title of "Ma Akamba," or "Great Mother." Working with the Efiks and the Okoyongs, she successfully countered the tribal practice of twin and orphan sacrifice, adopting at least nine orphans or "bairns" as she called them. Her efforts at social justice, education, and public health were so successful that in 1903 she became an attaché of the British government, receiving support for such efforts as vocational schools and smallpox vaccinations in return for bartering trade routes. Honored on January 21 in the Church of England's calendar, she left clear footprints on the path of justice and mercy for all.

## Teacher Harvest

Phyllis Hiers and Deacon Patricia Marks have launched an effort to participate in the Second Harvest Food Bank's Teacher Harvest, which provides school supplies to area teachers and their students. This program needs new and gently used books (K-12), as well as pencils, glue sticks, markers, and erasers. For further information, contact Patricia Marks (244-5159); <spmarks@bellsouth.net> or Phyllis Hiers (244-5942); <pahiers@bellsouth.net>.

## Oktoberfest - October 25, 2011

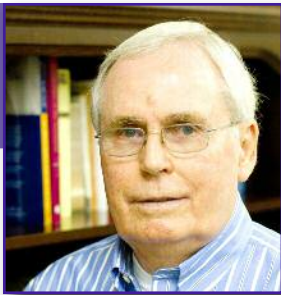


Over 120 people enjoyed the annual Oktoberfest at Christ Church Parish Hall with bratwurst, potato salad, pretzels, tossed salad, and a large German chocolate cake!



Diocesan youth and young adults including Shonna Roberts, pictured above and below, recently attended the Fall Gathering at Honey Creek where the theme was, "Contemplating Spiritual Gifts." Sponsored by Patricia Greneker and Savannah Spivey, Shonna is from Douglas, Georgia.





# Christ Church Looks Back

by Joseph A. Tomberlin

To emphasize a point, in the conclusion of the history article for October 2011, Vestry Clerk Robert G. Macks replied on May 4, 1948, to a now missing letter from Zoë Coburn, Secretary-Treasurer of the Diocesan Executive Committee, about insurance on the new Christ Church. As Macks said to Coburn, "At the moment nothing can be done about insurance on the new building. When construction is undertaken, the contractor will place his construction risk, and we take over when the building is delivered to us."

Nevertheless, Miss Coburn was insistent. In her answer to Macks she related a recent conversation with a Mr. Carswell, obviously an insurance agent as well as a communicant and vestryman at Christ Church, Savannah, in the diocesan office. While discussing insurance on that occasion, Carswell had "laid much stress on not beginning work until the contractor had had his agent" certify that the contractor carried proper coverage, including "Compensation and Public Liability." Further, Carswell had advised that as soon as construction actually commenced, the Vestry should acquire fire and storm insurance on the structure. Miss Coburn praised Carswell by saying, he "has been a wonderful help to us in handling insurance of any kind and he has found many errors in policies which he has corrected." On another matter, she reminded Macks that Bishop Barnwell was to leave Savannah on either June 3rd or June 4th, 1948, for a prolonged

trip to Europe. As Miss Coburn put it, "if there is anything on which you need his authority or something I must carry out on which I need his authority to do so after he leaves please let us know now for he will not return until the end of September."

In another letter to Macks on May 19, 1948, obviously apropos to issues other than insurance, Miss Coburn wrote, "Valdosta [meaning Christ Church, Valdosta] has never been a problem as far as I have been concerned, finances and other matters always being handled promptly and in a most satisfactory manner but THERE ARE OTHERS and because of them we have to follow certain rules." Robert G. Macks responded on Friday, May 21, 1948, without mentioning Miss Coburn's remark. He declared that, as far as "the new building is concerned, you may rely on us to take care of the situation as it develops. We will keep you advised of all details." Macks reported that bids for construction of the church were to be opened on Monday, May 24, 1948, "and shortly thereafter we shall have some news for you." Finally, he noted that "the Bishop has given the Building Committee the green light on all arrangements and I do not think that we shall have to bother him with any details from here until after his return."

As Macks had stated, May 24, 1948, was the date established for opening construction bids for Christ Church's new building. At three o'clock in the afternoon of that date a special called meeting convened in the office of Lloyd Greer, the supervising architect. Present from Christ Church were the Vicar, Clifton

H. White, and Jerome Tillman, Jack Dawson, Joseph V. Morrison, James D. Carroll, Glenn Robinson, and Robert G. Macks. B.J. Nicholson represented the J.N. Bray Company, and R.R. McCall was there in behalf of R.R. McCall Construction Company. The bid submitted by J.N. Bray was \$69,000.00, and the McCall bid was \$69,640.00. As the Minutes of the meeting reported, the bids "being both materially in excess of the funds available for construction, neither could be accepted outright." The men from Christ Church made an efforts "to determine how the Bray bid [being the lower one] might be brought in line with the funds available, and various . . . [alternatives were] suggested." The group finally decided to place a telephone call to Bishop Barnwell, "who instructed us to find ways and means of reducing cost." Also, the Episcopalians made an agreement with Mr. Nicholson, of J.N. Bray Company, that called for a two-week delay, during which "efforts will be made to solve the problem, particularly of the sash and millwork," the cost of which was \$12,000.00 of the total bid of \$69,000.00.

The following Sunday, May 30, 1948, Vicar Clifton H. White met the same group of churchmen that had attended the opening of bids on the 24th. He presented a letter from Bishop Barnwell that made two pertinent points. First, the total amount that could be borrowed locally "to assist in church construction" was \$7,500.00. Second, that amount, with the money already in hand, "would have to cover construction cost, furnishings and architect fees." The final note was the statement: "The Bishop further recommended strongly that we secure additional bids."



# The Annual Blessing of the Pets



Photographs by Karen Gunter and The Rev. Deacon Patricia Marks

The Christ Church family gathered at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 9th, for the annual Blessing of the Pets. The Rev. Tar Drazdowski and The Rev. Jim Elliott, assisted by The Rev. Deacon Patricia Marks and The Rev. Deacon Stella Clark, conducted the blessing service. As is their usual custom, the Parten family provided treats for the pets as a service project of the St. Francis Ministry, which supports rescue and veterinary treatment for abandoned animals. These pet blessing services are growing in popularity in other churches in the Diocese of Georgia, and a diocesan-wide photo collection of several pet blessing services is available at this link: <https://picasaweb.google.com/gaepiscopalphotos/201101PetBlessings>.

## Advent Wreath Event

*Sunday, November 27  
during the Sunday School Hour.  
Join your Christ Church family in  
making an Advent Wreath  
for your home  
or for a friend's.*

If you can help provide ivy, rosemary, cedar, pine or fir, please contact Susan Elliott ~ 245-7930.

## Sunday School Youth Events

### November Schedule

11/13 - Youth Sunday  
11/27 - Advent Wreath  
Making

### December Schedule

12/18-25 - No Sunday  
School during  
Christmas Break

## High School EYC November Schedule

11/2 - Elliotts' Home  
11/9 - Querins' Home  
11/16 - Louttit Hall  
11/23 - No EYC -  
Thanksgiving  
11/30 - Louttit Hall

### December Schedule

12/7 - Elliotts' Home  
12/14 - TBA

**Christ Church Website -**  
**www.christchurch**  
**valdosta.org**



The website for Christ Church was down during most of the week between October 10th and October 15th. The website operates on computers located at Spiderhost, a commercial web hosting company located in Orlando, FL. Several computers at Spiderhost had technical problems during this week, and our website was one of those affected. During part of the week, outdated pages of the website were unfortunately visible. The technical problems were corrected by noon on October 15th, and the site is once again fully operational.



### **Fire Department Visits Christ Episcopal Preschool**

A fire truck and three firefighters from the Valdosta Fire Department visited our preschool children on October 4. The children learned basic fire safety procedures and climbed in and out of the fire truck.



### **Pop Tab Project**

*We sent 55 pounds to the Ronald McDonald House recently. This is the third collection that we've sent for a total of over 160 pounds. Thank you Christ Church for supporting families whose children have serious illnesses or require medical treatment.*

-- Deacon Stella

## **Paws for a Cause 5K Road Race Moves to Lowndes High School**



The St. Francis Ministries for Animals is sponsoring a 5K Fun Run/Walk and 1 mile Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, November 5, with registration at 7 am. The event moved its location to Lowndes High because of a conflicting event at VSU.

The fee structure is as follows:

5K      \$15 registration fee (\$20 after 10/28)  
1 mile   \$10 registration fee (\$12 after 10/28)  
Family Discount   \$45 registration fee  
                             (\$50 after 10/28)

Ghost Runner   \$25 - Donation (no need to run)

As you might imagine, animals are welcome but must be leashed at all times. Each participant and ghost runners receive a t-shirt. There will be awards in each category.

Todd Smoot of A Course/Line, LLC of Valdosta is supervising the race. Contact Karen Gunter at 229-794-8146 for more information.

## **Join us for Regular Services**

**Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Holy Communion**  
**11:30 a.m. Holy Communion\***

**9:30 a.m. Holy Communion\***  
**6:00 p.m. Vespers**

**\*Nursery Available**

**10:45 a.m. Christian Education\***  
**8:00 p.m. Holy Communion**

**Tuesday: 10:30 a.m. @ Langdale Place**

**Wednesday: 6:00 p.m.\***

**Thursday: 7:00 a.m.**

*Christ Episcopal Church*  
1521 N. Patterson Street • Valdosta, GA 31602

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